



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Howard County Council Votes Unanimously To Generate Funds for School Construction

Ellicott City, MD (November 14, 2019) – On November 4, 2019, the Howard County Council voted unanimously to pass Council Bill 42-2019, which raises the rate for the school facilities surcharge paid by home builders in Howard County to fund school construction. All revenue raised from this surcharge is dedicated to school construction for the Howard County Public School System.

After several months of analysis, work sessions, and input from the public, the Council passed a carefully deliberated piece of legislation. The funding formula is based on factors that include the ten-year capital budget for the Howard County Public School System, projected aid from the State of Maryland for school construction, student yield attributed to new construction, and the projected number of new housing units over the next ten years.

The adopted bill balances several policy interests for Howard County, including amendments to address the impact on affordable housing. Full details on the passed amendments can be found [here](#).

Over the next ten years, this increase to the school facilities surcharge is expected to generate roughly \$200 million in construction funding for schools. This funding is a critical step forward to ensure that there are sufficient seats for students in Howard County Public Schools.

This legislation will go into effect on January 6, 2020.

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